

**Amendments to the Claims:**

1-16. (Canceled).

17. (Currently Amended) A method of constructing an assay assembly, comprising:

providing a storage well including a base and side walls; and

inserting a chip on which an array of reactive species is immobilized into the storage well, the chip resting on the base of the storage well and being surrounded by said side walls; ~~and thereafter providing the chip being retained in the storage well by retaining means comprising at least one hot or cold formed projection on the inner surface of the side wall to retain said chip in said storage well.~~

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising providing a protective, removable packaging over the storage well.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising placing the storage well into a carrying tray.

20-21. (Canceled).

22. (New) A method of constructing an assay assembly, comprising:

providing a storage well including a base and side walls;

forming at least one hot or cold formed projection on the inner surface of the side wall;

inserting a chip on which an array of reactive species is immobilized into the storage well; and

press fitting the chip past said at least one projection so that said chip rests on the base of said storage well and is retained by said at least one projection.

23. (New) The method of claim 22, further comprising providing a protective, removable packaging over the storage well.

24. (New) The method of claim 22, further comprising placing the storage well into a carrying tray.

25. (New) The method of constructing an assay assembly according to claim 17, the chip substantially covering an area of the base.

26. (New) The method of constructing an assay assembly according to claim 22, the chip substantially covering an area of the base.

27. (New) The method of constructing an assay assembly according to claim 17, an inner surface of the side walls of the storage well tapering inwardly adjacent to the base.

28. (New) The method of constructing an assay assembly according to claim 22, an inner surface of the side walls of the storage well tapering inwardly adjacent to the base.

29. (New) The method of constructing an assay assembly according to claim 17, the base being square.

30. (New) The method of constructing an assay assembly according to claim 22, the base being square.

31. (New) The method of constructing an assay assembly according to claim 17, the storage well comprising a plastics molding.

32. (New) The method of constructing an assay assembly according to claim 22, the storage well comprising a plastics molding.

33. (New) The method of constructing an assay assembly according to claim 17, the assembly including a plurality of storage wells fixed together in an array.

34. (New) The method of constructing an assay assembly according to claim 22, the assembly including a plurality of storage wells fixed together in an array.

35. (New) The method of constructing an assay assembly according to claim 33, wherein the array comprises three storage wells.

36. (New) The method of constructing an assay assembly according to claim 34, wherein the array comprises three storage wells.

37. (New) The method of constructing an assay assembly according to claim 33, wherein the storage wells in the array are made from a single plastics molding.

38. (New) The method of constructing an assay assembly according to claim 34, wherein the storage wells in the array are made from a single plastics molding.